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Consejo Episcopal
Latinoamericano



Canadian Conference of
Catholic Bishops



United States Conference of
Catholic Bishops

January 29, 2002

S.E.R. Monsenor
Baltazar Porras Cardozo
Arzobispo de Mérida
Presidente de la Conferencia Episcopal
y demás Obispos de Venezuela
Caracas, Venezuela

RELEASED IN FULL

Dear Brother Bishops:


From January 28-30, 2002, Cardinals, Bishops, priests, women religious and lay people, delegates of the Bishops' Conferences of Canada, the United States and Latin America, as well as Africa, Asia and Europe, have met at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC with experts of various international institutions to study the issue of "Humanizing the Global Economy," in order to seek alternatives to problems affecting the most impoverished people of the third world.


We have been shocked and deeply regret the delicate situation that the Church of Venezuela is experiencing. It is always dangerous to mock the Church in her doctrine, in her life and in her pastors. Not even the Papal Representative has been immune from such attacks.

We express our solidarity with the pilgrim people of God in Venezuela, particularly with its pastors. We are moved by the spirit of unity and communion, essential elements in the life of the Church. We want to be with those who suffer for the sake of the Gospel.

Our prayers are with you, convinced of the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: Do not fear! "I will always be with you until the end of the world" (Mt. 28, 20).

Fraternally yours in Christ,


Cardinal Bernard Law
Archbishop of Boston


Cardinal Theodore McCarrick
Archbishop of Washington, DC

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 20 APR 2006 / 200304421
President Episcopal Conference of Venezuela

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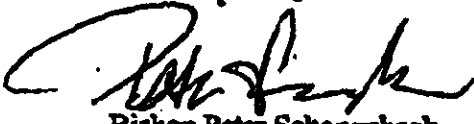
Bishop William D. Gregory
Bishop of Belleville



Bishop William S. Skylstad
Bishop of Spokane
Vice President, U.S. Conference of
Catholic Bishops



Bishop Brendan O'Brien
Archbishop of St. John's
Vice President, Canadian Conference
Catholic Bishops



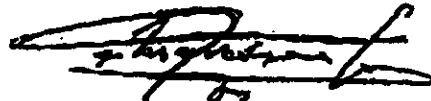
Bishop Peter Schonewald
General Secretary of the Canadian Conference
of Catholic Bishops



Bishop Jorge E. Jiménez Carvajal
Bishop of Zipaquirá
President, CELAM



Bishop Carlos Aguirre Retes
Bishop of Texcoco
General Secretary
Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano



Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo P.
Archdiocese of Kisangani
President of the Symposium of
Episcopal Conferences of Africa and
Madagascar



Bishop Oswald Thomas Colman Gomis
Bishop of Anuradhapura
General Secretary
Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences